

City of Dayton Reduced to Ruins by Havoc of Flood and Flames

WORST CALAMITY SINCE GALVESTON

Late Reports Detract Little From Size of Horror in Dayton.

ENTIRE CITY SEEMS DOOMED

Buildings on Fire, and People Leap in Water to Escape Flames.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Columbus, Ohio, March 26, (9:30 P. M.)—Governor Cox left here late this afternoon in command of special trains of militiamen in an attempt to reach Dayton and rescue the hundreds of persons who are marooned in buildings in the business center of the city, which was reported to the Governor as being swept by flames.

This report was confirmed in two dispatches received by the Governor. One reads:

"There has been an explosion in the center of Dayton. The town is on fire and people are burning up. We have no way to get to them or to the fire either."

The other message stated that the entire business section of the city appeared to be doomed.

The total death list in Dayton remains problematical. The most authentic and latest report received today was made to Governor Cox by his secretary, George F. Burbank, whom he sent to Dayton in the first stages of the flood.

The report is as follows:
Deaths may run as high as 2,000. Property losses, \$10,000,000. River four miles wide. Difficult to get anywhere near the center of the city. Water up to the second story of the Phillips House. Worst calamity in the country since Galveston."

When he left here with the troops this afternoon, the Governor planned to go from here to Troy and, if impossible to get from there into Dayton by railroad, the troops would be taken across the flood districts in boats and on rafts.

People Leaping Into Water.
A telephone message received here late this afternoon reported that many persons who were marooned on the burning buildings were jumping into the water and being swept away by the force of the flood.

Hundreds of starting reports have been received here during the day from cities and towns throughout Ohio and Indiana, and indicate that the loss of life has been enormous. The most conservative estimate made this afternoon placed the fatalities in the two States at 2,671.

Frantic appeals are being sent from Dayton for drinking water and food. The Mayor of Dayton has appealed to the world for aid, saying that his city was on the verge of famine. The water system has been completely demolished, and it is impossible to drink the thick, yellow flood which is swirling about the buildings.

A decided decline in the temperature has added to the suffering of the flood victims. A slight snow storm occurred in Dayton this afternoon, and indications are that a blizzard will envelop the entire flood district.

The Ohio Legislature increased the appropriation for relief fund this afternoon.

Tiffin, Ohio, was added to the long list of stricken towns, when a report was received from there this afternoon stating that fifty persons had been drowned there, including Mayor Kennell and Chief of Police Myers.

Piqua, Ohio, where 540 are reported to have been drowned, had not been communicated with at 4 o'clock, central time, to-day.

An unconfirmed report reached Delaware, Ohio, this afternoon, that the village of Stratford, five miles below that town, had been wiped out with a loss of 200 lives.

A wireless message from Mount Vernon reported a loss of life there of 100. The Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio tracks have been washed out. All wires are down and the town is completely isolated.

Dayton Worst Sufferer.
Reports received from all sections in the flooded area show that Dayton has been by far the worst sufferer. The extent of the flood is reported as having reached Dayton, but the Weather Bureau announced that heavy rains or snow storms are expected to follow to-night, which will tend to increase the flood waters.

The first report received from Dayton to-day telling of the disaster has closed the fact that a large number of persons were caught unawares. The greatest loss of life occurred in North Dayton and Riverdale suburbs. Danger warnings of the oncoming flood had been sent out, and militiamen were patrolling the banks of the Miami River watching for the use. While every precaution was being taken to guard the town from the natural flood source of the river, the Loraine reservoir, in Shelby County, gave way and a terrific torrent of water rushed into the already swollen river.

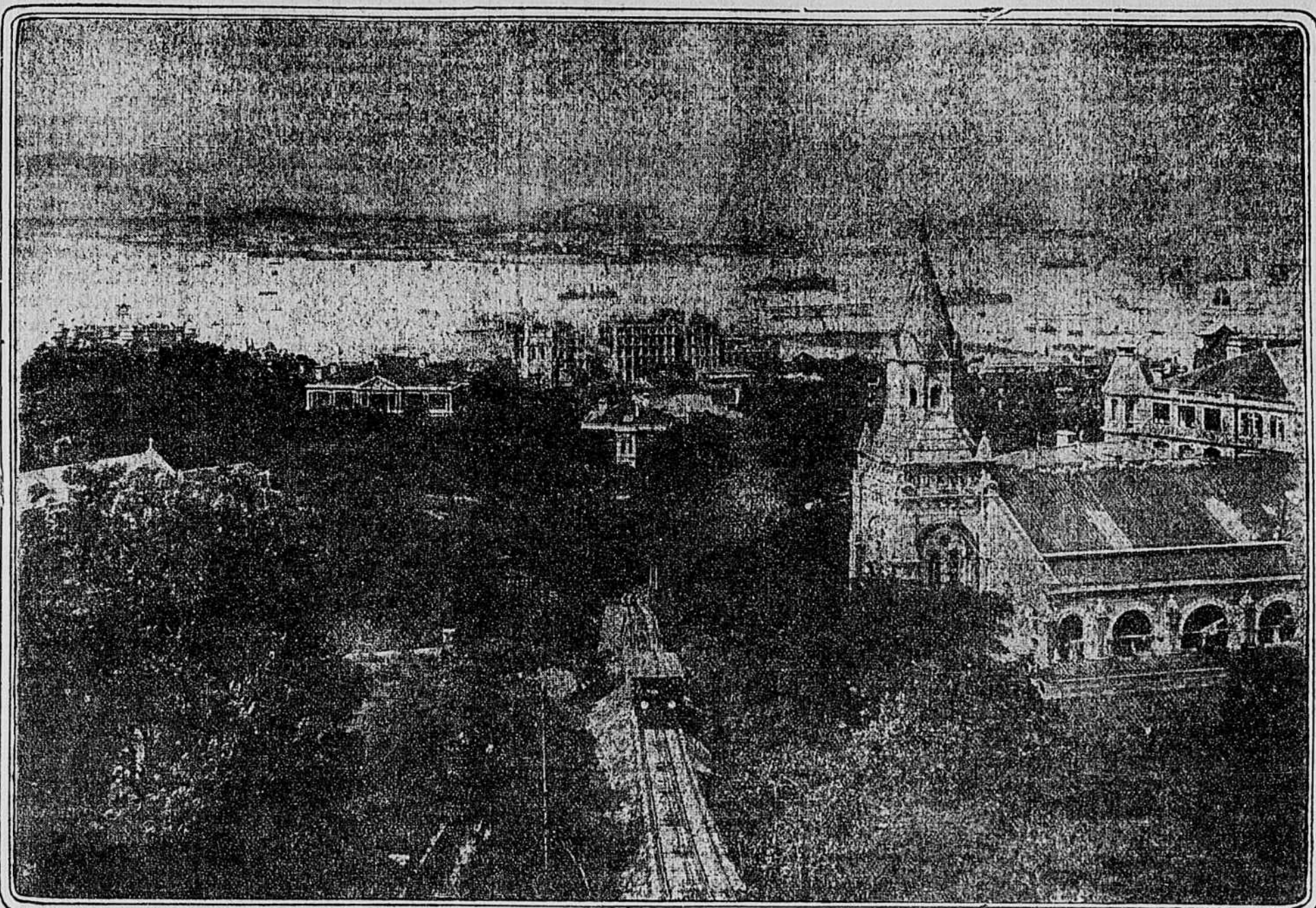
This was the cause of the flood which to completely covered Dayton. Before the flood from the broken reservoir could abate, the torrents were added to by the heavy rains over a wide area, which is drained by the Miami River above Dayton. This was increased by the Mad River, the Erie Canal and Stillwater Creek, all of which were swollen and are reported as having burst through their levees in several places.

The topography of the city made it impossible for hundreds to escape.

Supplies Are Sent by War Department
Washington, March 26.—Supplies ordered to-day by the Secretary of War to be rushed to the scene of the flood disasters in Ohio, Indiana and Nebraska.

To Columbus, O., 1,000,000 rations, each ration being a day's supply for one person.
Twenty thousand cots, 4,000 tents.
Thirty thousand blankets.
One hundred hospital tents.
Eleven army officers and fifty hospital corps experts.
Four hundred stoves.
Five thousand cans milk for the younger children.
Five hundred boxes of preserved dressing.
Ten thousand vaccine points.
For Omaha, Neb.:
Four hundred hospital tents.
One thousand blankets.

BIRDSEYE VIEW OF STRICKEN CITY OF DAYTON



SCORES DROWNED; MANY HOMELESS

Impossible Even to Estimate Destruction Wrought at Peru, Ind.

TRYING TO RESCUE LIVING

Till They Are Cared For There Will Be No Time to Think of Those Lost.

(By Associated Press.)

Peru, Ind., March 26.—(Via telephone to South Bend.) Vivid details of the disastrous flood which visited Peru, drowning scores of its inhabitants and rendering homeless more than half its population, were obtained late to-day, when rescuers succeeded in propelling boats through the inundated streets. The facts established were:

Number of persons drowned estimated from fifty up to as high as 150, it being impossible to learn exactly because many bodies are hidden in houses still wholly submerged.

Number of persons homeless, 7,500. Two hundred and twenty-five injured or sick survivors rescued and removed to a temporary hospital at Plymouth, Indiana.

Property loss, \$2,500,000. Only two of the dead identified—Mrs. Rose Whittle and Mrs. Elsie Smith, tenants of what was known as "Walnut Row," composed of twelve frame cottages, where twelve families were drowned.

Winter quarters of a big circus menagerie destroyed, about 500 valuable animals being drowned, including lions, bears, camels, elephants, ponies, monkeys and a rare collection of birds.

Citizens, finding lawlessness in every block of the city above water, organized a vigilance committee with orders to shoot looters.

Condition to-night: Several thousand persons still marooned in the courthouse, hospital, factory buildings and other structures because the various relief parties sent from South Bend and other cities had not sufficient boats to carry them to the nearest dry land, three miles away; snow falling heavily and suffering in-lane because of the lack of heating facilities, city in darkness except for a scant supply of lanterns. The city had no electric power and no drinking water supply.

The only communication from Peru to-day was maintained over feeble telephone line. Much food, clothing and blankets already have arrived on the scene, but more help is needed.

The difficulty of beginning anything like a death list is explained by the fact that the rescue parties devoted the entire day to carrying away the survivors who had climbed to perilous positions on top of roofs. Ten men who had remained for two days on top of the tank at the water works, became panic-stricken at the sight of the first rescue boat. Most of these men fell into the water about 9 o'clock Monday night and several of them were carried away.

How soon, if ever, the names of all the dead will be listed or the known, was given little thought by the rescuers to-night.

"Our energies are being devoted entirely to saving those still living," said Lieutenant-Governor O'Neill. "It is impossible for us even to try to learn the whereabouts of the bodies just now."

It was said that many of those taken to the hospital at Plymouth had become sick through drinking muddy water. To prevent this by supplying fresh water was one of the problems confronting the rescuers.

One of the rescue parties, who made the trip in the first boat that entered the city, said: "We learned from the survivors that the flood rushed in upon the city about 9 o'clock Monday night. The river rose six feet in three hours. Warning had been given some of the residents, but many failed to heed it."

The cry to be saved from those who were in the first boat was heard. "Some of them threatened to jump into the water if we did not take them aboard. But it was impossible with the scant boat supply to take all away at once."

People Warned to Run for Lives
Wild Panic Caused by Report, Which Proves to Be Untrue.
Columbus, Ohio, March 26.—A wild panic was caused in this city late to-day, when patrol wagons dashed through High Street, warning people to flee for their lives. The police had received a report that the storage dam which furnishes the city its supply had broken and was sweeping down upon the city billions of gallons of water. In the downtown district and throughout the city the wildest scenes of excitement were enacted. It was not for a long time afterwards that the report was corrected and something like order restored.

Later every available automobile patrol wagon was ordered out and sent to the relief of the sufferers from the floods in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Northern Kentucky, Omaha, Neb., and adjacent flood districts, when such shipments are assigned to the relief of the sufferers or organized relief committees.

Express Companies Will Carry Free of Charge
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
New York, March 26.—The Adams Express Company, the American Express Company, the National Express Company, the United States Express Company and the Wells-Fargo & Co. Express have issued instructions to the agents of their respective companies that they will carry free contributions of money and necessary supplies for the relief of the sufferers from the floods in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Northern Kentucky, Omaha, Neb., and adjacent flood districts, when such shipments are assigned to the relief of the sufferers or organized relief committees.

FRANK W. ROCKWELL, Mayor.

ORDERS ARE GIVEN FOR 500 COFFINS

Even That Does Not Indicate Size of Dayton's Death List.

THOUSANDS ARE MAROONED

Terrific Current Prevents Rescue of People From Flooded Buildings.

(By Associated Press.)

Dayton, Ohio, March 26, 10 P. M.—How great a death toll the deluge of Dayton had taken seemed to-night almost as much a matter of conjecture as yesterday, but, acting on stories brought by survivors from the stricken districts, it was said, the National Cash Register Company had ordered 500 coffins for immediate delivery.

The Great Miami River, swollen to a width heretofore unknown and running with a terrific current, barred the way to specific information of the number of dead. While thousands of persons still were marooned in houses and on upturned roofs in the central portion of the town, yet only a few corpses had been recovered, and it was believed that in the northern section of the submerged city, to which rescuing parties had been unable to penetrate, would be found the greatest life loss.

At 6 o'clock this evening J. H. Miller, secretary of the Board of Health, estimated that the death list would reach 800.

While the flood receded this afternoon, the terrific current retarded rescue work, and a cold, smarting rain added to the discomforts of the already overburdened storm victims.

Four government life saving boats, each manned by ten marines from the Culver Military Academy, were brought to Logansport to-day to aid in the rescue work.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC BECOMES CHAOTIC

All Through Trains Are Being Sent Around Territory Under Water.

SCHEDULES GO TO PIECES

Sections of Ohio and Indiana Are Without Rail Communication.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

New York, March 26.—The southwestern section of Ohio and Southern Indiana are without railroad communication to the East, and all through trains that generally pass through this territory are detoured via Chicago.

Extreme anxiety was manifested to-day at all of the local offices of the railroads. Trains from points west were either delayed or not even were permitted to make with the provision that transportation is subject to delay.

The handling of freight has become chaotic. The Pennsylvania Railroad has issued a bulletin describing conditions and warning agents against receiving live stock or perishable goods. The Erie is suffering from a hundred washouts.

The Big Four—now a part of the New York Central—is completely tied up, and the Baltimore and Ohio is unable to move trains beyond Grafton, W. Va.

Lines from New York to Chicago via the northern routes will be able, however, to supply New York with everything needed in the way of food-stuffs.

Causes of Flood.
A statement issued by Vice-President Daly, of the New York Central, gives the explanation for the series of floods. It details how five and one-half inches of rain, the heaviest on record, fell at Cleveland during the forty-eight hours ending Tuesday at 10 A. M.

Reports show that this condition prevailed not only at Cleveland, but over a large part of Ohio and Indiana. Hard showers were also reported in Eastern Ohio Tuesday night, so fear was expressed that the swollen streams would be delayed in receding.

Traffic to St. Louis is continued, however, the above report states, and the Southwest Limited, one of the New York Central fliers for that city, left to-day on schedule time to go, however, via the Lake Shore route and Chicago.

"The situation south of the Lake Shore line," reads the report, "is serious, and no trains are being operated out of Cleveland for Indianapolis, St. Louis, Dayton, Cincinnati and intermediate points. The passengers for Columbus are being transferred at New London, Ohio."

The statement issued by the Pennsylvania Railroad is to the effect that the high water and bad weather conditions throughout the Middle West have severely interrupted train service. Passenger and freight traffic has practically been discontinued over the Erie, the Lake Shore and other branches. Trains for Chicago on the Port Wayne route are discontinued west of Allentown, Ohio.

The through service to Chicago continues, however, the trains being detoured in Alliance and sent over the Lake Shore line.

Ticket Sale Suspended.
The sale of tickets is suspended to all points where train service is interrupted.

More than 100 different washouts, some extending for more than 700 feet, have occurred on the Erie west of Olean, N. Y. These washouts continue all the way to Marion, Ohio, and will necessitate a week's work by 6,000 men to get them into condition for use.

Arrangements for the handling of freight trains is at a standstill.

PATHS OF TORNADOES AND FLOODS

That Town, However, Not So Sorely Distressed as Other Places in Ohio.

CONDITIONS ARE SERIOUS AT AKRON

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Akron, O., March 26.—To the International News Service:

Flood conditions are bad, but fortunately for us not so bad as the reported conditions at Dayton, Columbus and some other cities. The Little Cuyahoga River here overflowed its banks beyond all precedent, cutting down to destruction about twenty-five dwellings and saloons, all city bridges and doing immense damage to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and county fairs grounds.

The Ohio Canal, fed by reservoirs south of the city, also overflowed its banks, and caused heavy damage to the business district.

Business lives have been reported lost. But I know of only two authenticated cases. The Erie and the Pennsylvania Railroads are also damaged and several bridges over the Ohio Canal will need extensive repairs. It is impossible to estimate the financial loss, but it will be heavy. The rain ceased for a while and the water has slightly receded, but to-night it is raining again, and no one can predict what may follow, though we hope the crisis is past.

Akron can take care of the public loss, but contributions for the benefit of individuals who have suffered loss are needed, would be acceptable.

(Signed)
FRANK W. ROCKWELL, Mayor.

HEAVY RAINSTORM SWEEPS NEW YORK

Rivers Are Rising Rapidly and Many Towns Are Under Water.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Rochester, N. Y., March 26.—A torrential rain-storm is sweeping over Rochester, and the entire country for many miles surrounding it in all directions. The Genesee River has reached the highest water mark in eleven years and is still rising. All of the other streams in this section are in the same condition. All of the local industries are closed.

Some Deaths Reported.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Buffalo, N. Y., March 26.—Heavy rains and a terrific windstorm continue over Western New York. Hundreds of families have been driven from their homes, while in a few instances deaths are reported.

Scores of small towns and villages are either entirely or partially under water, and the flood continues to rise in all rivers and streams through this part of the State.

Storm Reaches Virginia.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Staunton, Va., March 26.—The Western rain storm has reached the mountain section of Virginia, and the rainfall to-night so far has been very heavy.

